**Chapters 5-8**

**3/19/12**

**Summary**

In chapter five Himmelstoss comes to camp to be punished for tormenting his recruits. Then everyone talks about what they would do if the war would end. When Himmelstoss approached, Tjaden runs and hides. Himmelstoss returns with the sergeant-major to punish Tjaden. Himmelstoss demands that they tell him where Tjaden is and Kropp insults him. Then Kropp and Tjaden are put on trial for insubordination. Both are punished. In chapter six they return to the front two days early. They just sit and wait. The men have to save their food from getting eaten by rats. Later they are attacked. In the end only 32 out of 150 men remain in the Second Company. In chapter seven some of the men meet some ladies that speak French but they all have a good time together. Paul finds out that his mom has cancer and he receives a leave and goes home to visit his family and friends. In chapter eight Paul reports to the training camp and next to the camp is a prison for captured Russian soldiers, who have to pick through the German soldiers’ garbage for food. Paul’s sister and father visit him and all they can talk about is his mom who has been taken to the hospital to be treated for her cancer.

**Analysis**

So far I really enjoy this book. There are a lot of different events going on. Each character has a different story and I like learning about each of them. I don’t really understand why Tjaden and Kropp are punished. What they did wasn’t that big of a deal. I guess everyone in the military is just really strict and they have to follow strict rules. I can’t believe that there are only 32 men left out of 150 in the Second Company. I couldn’t imagine having to watch all of those men die and then have to continue to fight. You have to be the right person to be in the military.

**Application**

One characteristic that spans time and culture is the social aspect of human nature. In the military these men meet many other men. Thy all get really close with each other because they spend every day together. The hardest part would have to be watching their friends die. I don’t know how they can watch someone close to them die and then continue to fight. Another characteristic that spans time and culture is human roles and behaviors and how people think. To be in the military they have to have a strong mind. They can’t be in the middle of a war and just say they want to give up. They have to keep thinking about why they are fighting in the war and that is the only way they are going to get through it. Another characteristic is human ideals and how humans strive for harmony in love. In this story Paul’s mom is diagnosed with cancer. This really hits him hard. He knows he has to stay strong for his mom because he loves her. He knows he has to continue to fight in the war because as soon as it is over he can go be with her and help her through this hard time.